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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN MCCONE

THROUGH GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF ENTWETOK PROVING GROUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Attached at Tab A is Mr. Douglas' reply to your April 22, 1960, letter which inquired into DoD's desire to take over EPG. Mr. Douglas replied that the DoD does need the EPG for Pacific Missile Range activities and hopes a transfer can be effective on July 1, 1960. In that connection the DoD plan to fire Atlas missiles into the Eniwetok Lagoon will be delayed until after July 1.

Contact has already been established between Pacific Missile Range and the Albuquerque Operations Office for the purpose of planning an orderly transfer of the facilities and equipment at the EPG. I expect to know in the next few days the nature of that plan and the projected time scale. I have already received preliminary indications that the transfer can be effected by July 1.

It is necessary, of course, that we negotiate a suitable interdepartmental agreement and establish an understanding that the AEC of can, if necessary, be accommodated in the EPG for future activities?

I recommend that the Chairman sign the proposed reply to the DoD at Tab B. which will lead to this negotiation.

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Attachments:

Tab A: Ltr fa Douglas dtd 5/16/60 Ref DMA 4698 fm DoD
Tab B: Proposed reply to DoD

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